



# GROUNDCOVER

NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP

AUGUST 2019 VOLUME 10 ISSUE 8

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## Won't you be my neighbor (in the not-too-distant future)?



by Jim McBee  
Managing Editor

I'm stoked to be getting some new neighbors.

Not that there's anything wrong with my current neighbors, who, as far as I know, are staying put.

But there are a couple of developments coming soon near me. The first, just across Platt Road from my Ann Arbor neighborhood, is a few acres of city-owned land that's had a few units of housing on it for years. This year, those structures came down and will soon be replaced by more than 30 units.

That's a bunch of new neighbors. And

because it's an Ann Arbor Housing Commission site, that's a bunch of people who'll be able to live in Ann Arbor who wouldn't have had a chance to if it were developed to rent at the market rate. That's worth cheering.

The second batch of neighbors will live in 90 units planned about a mile north up Platt.

### Net-zero hero

Matt Grocoff is a star among environmentalists. He made his bones when he turned his 1901 Ann Arbor house into a "net-zero energy" home — it doesn't consume any power from DTE Energy — with new lights, insulation, windows, rainwater cisterns and ultraviolet water filters, geothermal heating and cooling, efficient appliances and solar panels.

Grocoff is turning his star power on a planned development called Veridian at County Farm, where the juvenile detention facility used to be. Approved by county commissioners in September, Veridian will be a mix of market-rate cottages and apartments or condos, and subsidized units via Avalon Housing, Grocoff said at a July 8 presentation at the Malletts Creek library branch. "We expect next summer to be digging ground," he said.

Grocoff has big dreams about building a whole neighborhood that's net-zero. That's easier said than done, he's discovering. "Sustainability is not really legal" under current building codes, he said, and banks won't amortize the cost of shared amenities — say, an onsite geothermal utility — among multiple homeowners.

And that's not to mention the politics of housing development. "There's going to be a whole lot of pushback," Grocoff said. "You're too dense." You're not dense enough." Heck, some of the site's neighbors had signs up to protest developing the site at all; they wanted its 14 acres added to County Farm Park's existing 141.

### Resistance and bureaucracy

Grocoff's plan is to build the dream, then figure out how to check the bureaucratic boxes. "We are going to



A sign announces the many government agencies, banks and contractors involved in a public-housing site under development on Platt Road in Ann Arbor. Photo by Jim McBee

design this above the legal fictions."

While Veridian will replace a Project Grow community garden, 30 percent of the site will be dedicated to food production. "You'd be surprised how much food you can grow in a dense area," he said. One of Grocoff's goals is to "infiltrate" 100% of rainwater, so the development doesn't add to the sort of flooding we saw on that side of town in July. Not impressed yet? Throw in plans to move a historic barn to the site with an Argus Farm Stop and storage for electric cars and bicycles that residents can use.

It's all very idealistic and, even though I'm a cynical old news creature, that's a big part of the appeal to me. If we accept that earth is in a climate crisis, why pursue half measures? We need to put homes close to jobs, we need to stop dumping all our filth into our rivers and oceans, we (and this is a tough one for me) need to get over our addiction to cars and driving.

Crews haven't broken ground yet and Grocoff already sees Veridian as a blueprint for sustainable development — development that's needed to address the housing crisis not just in Ann Arbor, but around the world. He's already planning workshops this fall about local food, using local artisans and social equity. "If we have a Farm Stop, how do I shop there if I'm poor?" he asked.

It's not easy being green. Veridian faces many hurdles, Grocoff said. To satisfy investors in federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, his development firm has already had to give up interspersing subsidized housing among the market-rate construction. Veridian can't build its own electrical microgrid "unless DTE cooperates." There's concern about using lower-quality materials to build the subsidized housing.

Veridian's dwellings haven't even been designed yet. And I suppose it's possible well-to-do folks won't want to rub shoulders with the hoi polloi. And even if everything goes smoothly, adding 120 housing units in an area where thousands are needed won't end the housing crunch. But it's hopeful just seeing a developer not act like every other developer. Housing development that raises the standard by which housing is developed? That sounds pretty Ann Arbor to me.

\*\*\*

When I took this job earlier this year, I promised a redesign. You'll see it in September. I hope you don't hate it! (We'll still have the puzzles, I swear.) Let me know how you'd like us to improve Groundcover. Drop me a line at [contact@groundcovernews.com](mailto:contact@groundcovernews.com) and tell us what we can make better over the coming months, and what not to mess up.

## 10 for \$10

by Groundcover staff

Looking for something to do that won't break the bank? Hoping to try something new? Wanting a little something sweet or savory? **10 for \$10** is here to provide you with low-cost or free things to do in Washtenaw County.

**1. Ann Arbor Pride:** 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Aug. 3 and noon-4 p.m., Aug. 4 — Activities for LGBTQ and allies. **Free** in Kerrytown, Ann Arbor.

**2. Ann Arbor Poetry open mic:** 7 p.m., Aug. 4 — Unleash your inner bard at Espresso Royale at 324 S. State St. **Free.**

**3. Nature Storytime – Buzzin'**

**Bugs:** 10 a.m., Aug. 7 — Nature-based activities for you and your child aged 1 to 5. Olson Park, 1505 Dhu Varren Road, Ann Arbor. \$4 for Leslie Science and Nature Center members; \$5 for non-members.

**4. Dexter Daze Festival:** 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Aug. 9 and 10 a.m.-11 p.m., Aug. 10 — Check out artisans, free entertainment and fireworks at the end. **Free.**

**5. Nature Play Pop-Ups at Matthaei:** 10-11:30 a.m., Aug. 11 — Search for leaves and make pastel rubbings. For children ages 3-7 at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Road. **Free.**

**6. Paint Dexter Plein Air Festival:** Aug. 12-17 — Watch artists work outdoors in and around Dexter.

## Exploring Washtenaw County on the cheap

On the last two days, works will be exhibited and sold in Monument Park. **Free.**

**7. Michael Franti and Spearhead:** 11:30 a.m., Aug. 22 — The second-to-last Sonic Lunch of the year at Liberty Plaza, downtown Ann Arbor. **Free.**

**8. Nashbash Music Festival:** 5-10 p.m., Aug. 22 — Nashville singer/songwriter Jerry Vandiver headlines at the Ann Arbor Farmers Market. **Free.**

**9. Ypsilanti Heritage Festival:** Aug. 23-25 — Get down to River-side Park for arts and crafts, live music, food, beer and historical presentations. **Free.**

**10. A Night Under the Stars — Lego Movie 2:** 8 p.m., Aug. 23 — Take the kids to Lillie Park South at 4365 Platt Road, Ann Arbor. **Free.**

*Want to contribute to 10 for \$10? Please send ideas for inexpensive treasures and experiences in and around our vibrant community to:*

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Creating opportunity and a voice for low-income people while taking action to end homelessness and poverty.

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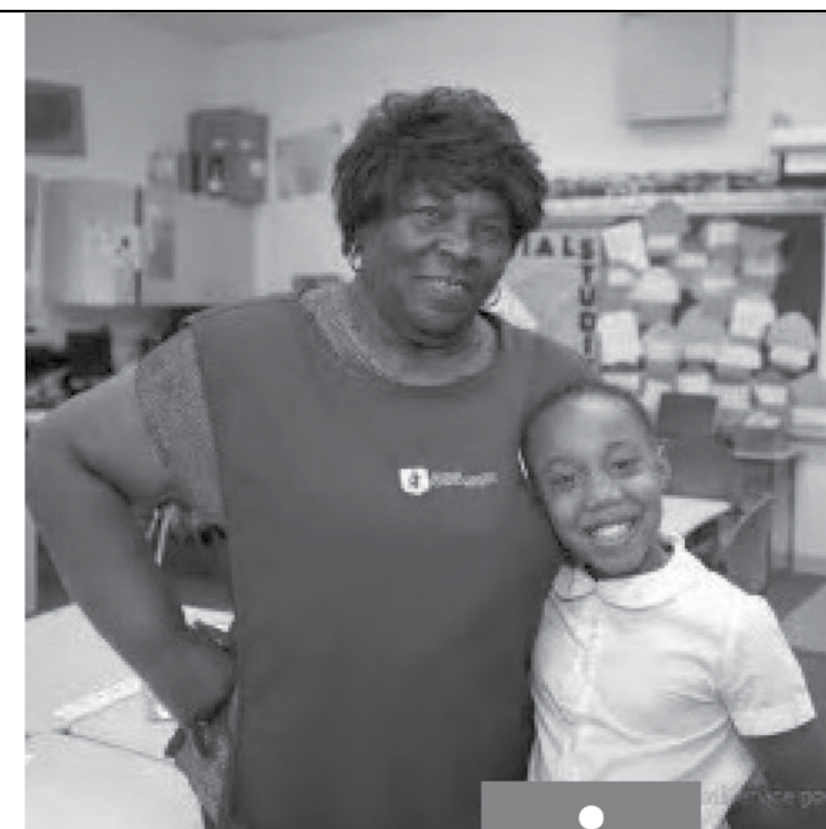
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## Finding injustice in Ann Arbor's housing crisis



by Jerry  
Charbonneau  
Groundcover  
Volunteer

Welcome to my new column for Groundcover. Its goal is to explore the issue of affordable housing in Ann Arbor.

I am a retired professor of sociology and social work whose adult life has been committed to the struggle for social justice. I have direct experience in community action in projects in Detroit, Mexico, Colombia and Haiti. I have taught community organizing for over 40 years at Madonna University.

I've fought injustice all my life and, having lived in Ann Arbor less than two years, have found injustice here,

too. As a volunteer for Groundcover, I am turning my attention to the housing crisis here.

There is a lack of housing affordable not only to the homeless, but to the working class. In recent years, U-M alone has added thousands of students and employees, and housing construction has not kept pace — even with the erection of luxury-student-apartment towers downtown.

"We are not coming close to meeting student demand," said Ann Arbor City Council member Chip Smith at a town hall convened April 23 by the Washtenaw County Democratic Party. "We are not keeping up with enrollment increases."

It's not surprising, then, that rent prices in the city are sky high. Water Hill, which used to be a mostly black, work-

ing class neighborhood known as West Side, has gentrified — and whitened. Working folks have moved to cities like Ypsilanti, many of whose residents are now burdened with rising rents plus the cost of transportation to jobs in Ann Arbor.

Housing officials say more than 90,000 people live outside Ann Arbor and commute to jobs in town. Is there no way that a big chunk of those folks could be accommodated closer to where the jobs are?

In this column, I will address that question and others:

- What is affordable housing?
- What is the need for affordable housing in Ann Arbor?
- What are the myths and realities about affordable housing?

- Who are NIMBYs and YIMBYs?
- Who makes the decisions about affordable housing?

I'll be writing about the key actors:

- The mayor and City Council
- The real estate industry
- Developers
- The University of Michigan
- Residents of Ann Arbor neighborhoods
- The state
- The federal government
- Ann Arbor's master plan

I intend to include in this conversation diverse voices and writers, including Groundcover vendors, fellow volunteers, community residents and non-residents.

## Give low-income renters a chance to benefit from tax credits, too



by Susan Beckett  
Publisher,  
Groundcover  
News

Kamala Harris' call for \$100 billion to help minorities who have been excluded from owning homes in high-growth areas is not as outlandish as it first sounds. Home ownership has been the single largest contributor to family wealth in the United States for the past 70 years.

The disproportionate percentage of black people who lack affordable housing is part of the legacy of slavery and persistent discrimination. Their systemic exclusion from the housing market is the most significant cause of the racial wealth divide. As explained below, the tax code can be used to ameliorate some of the hardship caused by that discrimination and benefit all cost-burdened, low-income renters.

Wealth is an essential anti-poverty tool because it shields families from unexpected contingencies and allows them to invest in products and enterprises that spur economic mobility. Black households own a dime for every dollar of white wealth, according to the Pew Research Center.

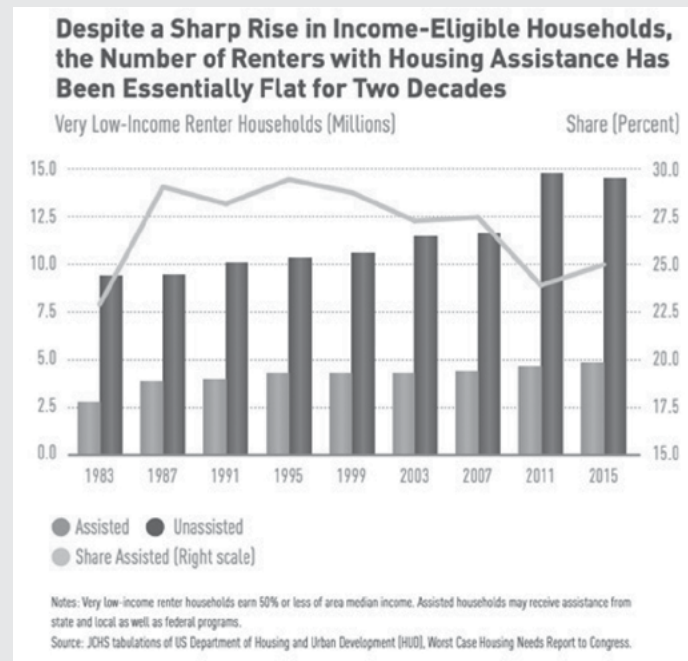
While white Americans benefited from mortgage tax deductions and GI loans following World War II, families of color were often refused mortgages and even more often denied the opportunity to buy in desirable neighborhoods, where housing values appreciated quickly. Even now, they are disadvantaged by the way credit scores are calculated. With credit scores relying on the payment history on student loans, mortgage and car loans, urban populations in general, and lower-income renters in particular, have little opportunity to establish a high credit score. Harris' call for expanding credit scores to include rent, utility and phone-bill payments is dead-on.

The housing crisis is now widespread across ethnicities but still affects black people and renters most severely. Rents have increased by 61% since 1961, while wages (adjusted for inflation) have only gone up by 5%, according to the 2019 Harvard study, "State of the Nation's Housing." And while the high cost of housing affects nearly one-third of all U.S. households, renters are hardest hit; close to 50% of renters are forced to pay unaffordable housing costs as opposed to 23% of homeowners.

The National Low Income Housing Coalition estimates that there is a shortage of seven million affordable and available rental homes for extremely low-

## The high cost of unaffordable housing

Seventy-one percent of all extremely low-income households pay more than 50 percent of their income toward rent, according to a recent Harvard study. Unaffordable housing not only jeopardizes financial security, but also has lasting effects on a range of other outcomes. With less money left to spend on basic needs, members of rental cost-burdened households are more likely to have poorer health, a higher risk of food insecurity, worse mental health outcomes, poor childhood performance on cognitive tests and a higher risk of low-weight and premature births.



When households are forced to pay more for rent it causes larger societal ripple effects. For example, according to an Opportunity Begins at Home study, unstable housing is projected to cost \$111 billion over the next 10 years in health care costs for families with children.

income households — only 37 affordable and available rental units per 100 households. Some low-income renters get relief in the commercial market through Housing Choice Vouchers that allow them to rent at fair market value

but pay only 30% of the cost out of their pockets. But there are not nearly enough vouchers to meet the need. Only one out of four of those eligible

see TAX CREDIT, page 5

## WIC program lowers obesity in young children, health officials say

by Ashkan Kazemi  
Groundcover Contributor

According to a study in the Journal of the American Medical Association in June, the obesity rate in preschoolers who receive government food aid has declined. The national rate has dropped from 16% in 2010 to 14% in children two to four years old, reported the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Women, Infants and Children is the special supplemental nutrition and dietitian program funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture that provides services for moderate- and low-income families. Children up to age five are eligible along with pregnant, postpartum and breastfeeding women, depending on family income.

The obesity drop also happened in Washtenaw County. According to the Washtenaw County Health Department, obesity rates in 2- to 4-year-olds who

take part in the program dropped from 24% in 2014 to 18% in 2017.

Gay Akella is the coordinator of Washtenaw County's WIC program. "In the last 7 to 10 years, WIC has made a lot of different changes at both national and state level ... it's more and more customized to help moms keeping in mind chronic illnesses like obesity," she said.

Akella, a dietitian, has been with the WIC program 22 years. "Especially in Washtenaw County, you see the drop [in obesity rates] even more, because all of our nutritionists are dietitians. WIC is an education program. If you were to compare it with the food stamp program, food stamps is a hunger-fighting program. With the food stamp program, you can use the stipend to buy anything edible, so pop would be considered food. However, WIC isn't that way because everything is education-based."

Cutting down on juice and switching from high-fat to low-fat milk were the major contributors to the drop in obesity, according to a July report from CBS News.

"[Dietitians] describe to the mothers how changing the milk from whole to 2% or 1% at age 2 years is so critical," Akella said. "You know your child's arteries are healthy, they're not at risk for cardiovascular diseases, their risk for obesity goes down. All of those chronic illnesses go down."

"We still provide juice because we do get rebates for juice, unfortunately. But juice goes along with education," she said. "The dietitians provide education constantly, in terms of dental hygiene and obesity. They talk about diluting the juice and how to use them in cooking rather than directly feeding the kids. At least it's a step up compared to kids getting Kool-Aid and soda pops."

Five thousand families are enrolled in WIC in Washington County, Akella said. As for the future: "We're heading in the right direction. Just think about how difficult it is to get access to a dietitian ... and imagine those services are offered to our clients for free. Moving forward, we would like to move up to the next level and have physical activity and mental health checkups as part of the WIC program."

"It's important for people to know that WIC provides these services, and we want more people to reach out to us. WIC is a moderate-income program, not a low-income program. We have clients that are Ph.D.s, they're in med school or getting a master's degree. They are still eligible because they're students and their income is limited."

"You should contact WIC if you're having difficulty to have ends meet for food," Akella said. Contact WIC at 734-544-6800 or visit washtenaw.org/1392/Women-Infants-Children-WIC.

## Low-income renter tax credit

continued from page 4

actually gets a voucher because there is not enough federal money available to fund the voucher program.

In Congressional District 12, which includes Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, 30% of renting households are paying more than half their income on housing. In District 7, which includes Scio Township, Saline, Dexter and Chelsea, 24% are similarly severely cost-burdened. In recent conversations with Michigan members of Congress, all acknowledged that affordable housing was a problem in their districts and many from both parties were intrigued with the idea of using tax credits to ease the crisis.

## Using the tax code to pay rent

An innovative approach to circumvent the shortfall for Housing Choice Vouchers is to use the same funding source that subsidized home ownership — the IRS. A low-income renters' tax credit would cover the difference between 30 percent of a family's income and the actual cost

of their housing and utilities, up to the fair market rent for that community. The credit would be issued monthly so that it could be used to pay each month's rent on time. A family with a monthly income of \$900 who rented an apartment that included utilities for \$900 would pay \$300 themselves and get a \$600 check from the IRS each month to cover the balance of the rent.

Several senators, including Corey Booker (D-N.J.), Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) and Dean Heller (R-Nev.), have proposed versions of a renters' tax credit. A study by Columbia University researchers estimates that renters' credits could lift nine million Americans over the poverty line. It would also allow them to meet other basic needs and have the breathing room to start saving for emergencies and building wealth.

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## Greek culture and history live on in Yassoo celebration



by Will Shakespeare  
Groundcover Vendor #258

*“The Yassoo Festival gives you a chance to experience Greek hospitality, Greek food, Greek drinks, Greek deserts, Greek art, Greek music, Greek dance, the Greek Orthodox religion and, maybe, a trip to Greece.”*

— Teresa A. Stokes, chairwoman of 2019 Metro Ann Arbor’s Yassoo Greek Festival

visitors, especially parents, said that the little children dance performances were their main reason for attending.

About 6,000 visitors attended Yassoo this year from as far as Lansing. Yassoo gets bigger each year.

### Contributions to the modern world

Greek contributions to civilization are staggering. In the West, ancient Greece was arguably the birthplace of modern philosophy, mathematics, astronomy, medicine and democracy. The worlds of literature, theater, mythology, dramatic arts and architecture benefited similarly from Greek influences.

Ancient Greeks were the globe-trotters of their time. They shared knowledge with the outside world and brought back knowledge and ideas from near and distant lands. This exchange of ideas and technology gave rise to acrimonious debates about Eurocentric versus Afrocentric perspectives on the extent of ancient Greek versus ancient Egyptian contributions to western civilization. In any case, the impact of Greek culture on the development of civilization is unquestionably profound.

The renowned Greek historian Herodotus, nicknamed “the Father of History,” gave laudable credit to ancient Egyptian, Mesopotamian and Phoenician civilizations, plus ancient Greek overseas projects in mainland Italy, Sicily, Anatolia, Crete, Cyprus, the Levant, Assyria, Persia, Libya and pharaonic Egypt for the discoveries of classical knowledge. The idea of mathematical proof derived from three brilliant Greek mathematicians: Pythagoras, Euclid and Archimedes. However, the ancient Egyptians and Mesopotamians introduced the concepts of arithmetic, fractions and geometry — for instance, in the architecture and engineering of the great pyramids.

Other controversial but important contributions of the ancient Greeks to the modern world include: an alphabet derived from that of the Phoenicians; architecture inspired by Egyptian temples and palaces; a powerful mythology; theater, originally an outdoor arena where people watched plays; the Olympics, started in the city of Olympia; the famed library of Alexandria, Egypt, established by the country’s Greek rulers.

Other ancient Greek achievements include:

- Philosophy and science: The ancient Greeks built a sophisticated culture of scientific knowledge and rational philosophy which were initially derived from other civilizations.

- Medicine: Ancient Greeks created the standards for modern medicine based on diagnosis, treatment, prognosis and ethics. Many medical schools still require graduates to swear a version of or successor to the ancient Hippocratic Oath, named after Greek physician Hippocrates, known as the father of Western medicine.

- Trial by jury: The Athenian democracy of ancient Greece was the first, according to Western historians, to use a jury of citizens rather than a judge to decide legal cases.

### Greek democracy and politics

According to the National Geographic Encyclopedia, ancient Greeks were the first to create the concept of democracy. The term democracy comes from two Greek words: “Demos,” means people and “Kratos” means rule. The meaning of democracy is “the idea that citizens of a country should take an active role in the government of their country and manage it directly or through elected representatives.” In a democracy, the people have a voice. They have the right

to replace a government, if they are not satisfied, through peaceful means of transferring power.

Athenian democracy developed around the 6th century BCE. The Greek concept of direct democracy is different from today’s democratic systems, which prefer representative democracy. According to history.com, the ancient Greek system was “comprised of three separate institutions: The ekklesia, sovereign governing body that wrote laws and dictated foreign policy; the boule, a council of representatives from the 10 tribes of Athens; and dikasteria, the popular court in which citizens argued cases before a group of lottery-selected jurors.”

Athenian leader Cleisthenes, representing discontent among the working class, middle class and the military, introduced political reforms including equality before the law to break the power of the nobility who ruled the city-state.

Athenian democracy survived for two centuries. Only free men were allowed to participate — a minority of the population; women and slaves were excluded from the political process. The Athenian system of democracy was suppressed by Alexander the Great in

see YASSOO, page 11

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## Ypsilanti Heritage Festival, Aug. 23-25 — a burst of late summer activity

by Will Shakespeare

The Ypsilanti Heritage Festival, aka YpsiFest, is a free community event. From dawn to dusk, it features plenty of arts and crafts, clothes and accessories for sale, duck races on the river, Michigan craft beer, live music, petting farm animals, pony rides, bouncy houses, sword and knife play, antique engines, games and other colorful activities for all.

The setting, in Riverside Park along the Huron River and just two blocks from the Ypsilanti Transit Center, couldn’t be better. Ample shade, smooth paths and grassy expanses promote a laid-back, neighborly atmosphere.

On the morning of Aug. 24, the Heritage Festival parade will march through Riverside Park, Ypsilanti’s historic Depot Town and downtown. Live entertainment continues into the evening on Friday and Saturday.

The Ypsilanti Heritage Festival arose from the city residents’ desire to establish a historic district in Depot Town and North Huron Street. The city elders wanted to prevent the use of eminent

domain to tear down old buildings of historic significance.

The festival was first held 41 years ago on July 15, 1978. The “Sidewalk Celebration” was highly successful. It led to the decision to repeat the festival.

The Ypsilanti Heritage Festival parade has been held annually since 1979. Historically, the parade attracted wider attention when different political groups showed up to demonstrate. More recently, permission is denied or revoked for festival-parade marchers who represent controversial political issues.

Suggested improvements from previous years include more music and entertainment and expanding the beer tent into two stages with food services.

Scheduled entertainers include Fifty Fuse Amp and Your Generation, and the Ring of Steel Action and Theatre and Stunt Troupe is back with its staged-fighting plays. There may be an Elvis impersonation competition. Who knows, there may even be a Shakespeare at the Heritage Festival!



Pony rides and knife throwing were among the entertainment options at last year’s Heritage Festival.

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Boober Tours is making moves



by Kevin Spangler  
Groundcover  
Vendor #307

Massive things are happening with Boober.

Through the sponsorship of Bloom, Bank of Ann Arbor, Trinity Lutheran Church, downtown Marriot and United Way, I have been able to afford the rent in Ann Arbor and grow this business to build the best rideshare app known to humanity.

With these continued sponsorships, I have been able to build three sponsorship-advertising entertainment tour trailers. Ad prices range from \$33 to \$10,000 a month. The goal is to finish and do a huge marketing push to raise awareness of the Boober rideshare app, which will release pedicabs and show customers who their drivers are. Users

will be able to pick their favorite drivers to get that special service.

Meanwhile, my upcoming book, “Rising out of Depression and Going Up the Royal Road,” is about 75% complete.

My latest on entertaining and having a fun time is taking live musicians on the trailers. The latest band we had was Landfill. With a tuba, a trumpet and a drum set, we rode all over town, played to all the patios and made many stops on the way; we jammed with the drum circles, the sax guy and a gentleman drumming on the cement.

My goal is to create massive value for the community in a way that the community loves their town and people from all around enjoy coming to our beautiful city. If you are thinking of being a sponsor to help support a vibrant future for Ann Arbor, contact me at 734-686-2087. Thank you in advance for your support.

Boober Tours — the only way!

It takes a village; we can build it

by Ken Parks  
Groundcover Vendor

We live on Turtle Island, the indigenous name for this land. America was imposed on this “New World.” On a global map it runs from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from the Arctic to the Antarctic. The United States of America may be called “the other America.” The Monroe Doctrine is part of that story. Toussaint Louverture, Simon Bolivar, Jose Marti and Fidel Castro all played important roles in that saga.

And all indigenous people know the story well. Other Americans know the United States better than it knows itself. Certainly, better than the United States knows them.

Books are written on the rise of capitalism and the European flight from that terror. A library collection on the growth of colonial capitalism into the imperialism of World War I would sit next to the collection on the socialist revolutions, the Great Depression, fascism and the Cold War. Our current studies would look at the financialization of everything, best explained as neoliberal imperialism and the global campaign to speed up the extraction

and consumption of every resource. Your time is the ultimate resource to commodify. Nonstop busyness. Vast accumulations of what may well be imaginary capital, a kind of fetish that destroys life. Get rich or die trying.

We can do better. The struggle to summarize, draw conclusions and make decisions is key to our experiment on this earth.

Take a breath and imagine the reality we share. This precious human birth and the possibility of freedom. You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free. This very breath is the key. It takes a village to raise a child. From each according to their ability, to each according to their need.

Time to take a breath. Inhale and exhale. If you can sit in good posture and count 21 breaths, you are a star. Mind training, in stillness and in motion, has healing power that brings us to the unity of body, speech and mind. In everyday life, any sense of unease can be a message to take a natural breath. That can become a wonderful habit. I am still working on it. When we move from awareness of breath to awareness

see VILLAGE, page 11



Boober Tours recently hosted the band Landfill to entertain folks in downtown Ann Arbor. Photo courtesy of Kevin Spangler

Subconsciousness / Consciousness

by Christopher Ellis  
Groundcover Vendor #483

In this auditorium  
And narrow  
Silence beside huge  
Shadows are frozen  
In a web  
on dust  
beside grotesque  
masks, props  
Hideousness on the  
Mirror reflects  
True form  
unclouded as  
uncave  
unburied  
alive  
Still light showing life  
real window  
curtains wide  
open  
see  
peer  
look  
the dancers are here  
ego  
the dancers are here!

Sudoku ★★☆☆☆ 4puz.com

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Fill in the squares so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9.

GROUNDCOVER VENDOR CODE

While Groundcover News is a non-profit organization that works with newspaper vendors who are considered contracted self-employers, we still have expectations of how vendors should conduct themselves while selling and representing the paper.

• I agree not to ask for more than face value or solicit donations by any other means.

• I will only sell current issues of Groundcover News.

The following list is our Vendor Code of Conduct, which every vendor reads and signs before receiving a badge and papers. We request that if you discover a vendor violating any tenets of the code, please contact us and provide as many details as possible. Our paper and our vendors should be positively impacting our County.

All vendors must agree to the following code of conduct:

Groundcover News will be distributed for a voluntary donation of \$2, or the face value of the paper.

• I agree not to sell additional goods or products when selling the paper or to panhandle, including panhandling with only one paper.

• I will wear and display my badge when selling papers.

• I will only purchase the paper from Groundcover News staff and will not sell to or buy papers from other Groundcover News vendors, especially vendors who have been suspended or terminated.

• I agree to treat all customers, staff and other vendors respectfully. I will not “hard sell,” threaten, harass or pres-

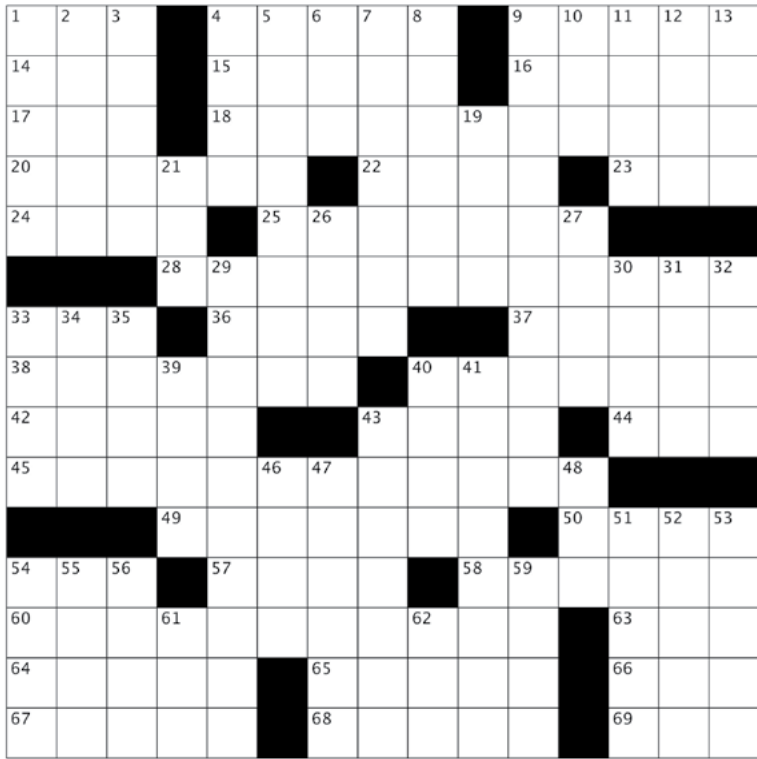
Bugged Peter A. Collins

ACROSS

- Family nickname
- Sharp
- Jobs' creation?
- Acapulco gold
- Revolutionary invention?
- Progeny
- "Delta of Venus" writer Anais
- Big name in publishing
- English king who was a son of William the Conqueror
- Other, in Mexico
- Slope of  $y = 10x + 2$
- "Frozen" snowman
- Ones paying a flat fee?
- Big Indonesian lizard
- Marijuana ingredient, in short
- iPod Mini successor
- Take the honey and run?
- Some deli orders
- Guidance givers
- Ann \_\_\_\_
- The prez, for short
- WSJ competitor
- Peter Pan, for instance
- Here, not in the heavens
- Somewhat
- Reciprocal of cos, in trig class
- Grasps
- Like some beds
- Legendary "gift"
- Teachers' org.
- Starting squad
- Tribe for which a Great Lake is named
- "The \_\_\_\_ Side" (cartoon)
- Rap or rock
- Twosomes
- Word that can follow the last part of 18-, 28-, 45-, or 60-Across

DOWN

- "Tiny Bubbles" singer
- "Little Mermaid" mermaid
- Disco queen Summer



Peter A. Collins

- Off kilter
- Title for Mao
- Morn's opposite
- \_\_\_\_ Beach, CA
- Drunk as a skunk
- Hatred
- In support of
- Put on a long face
- Squander
- "Paradise Lost" setting
- '60s TV's talking horse
- Bobby's monogram, in '60s politics
- Geologic periods
- Margarita rim coating
- A solo homer could tie it
- Lummox
- Grand Ole \_\_\_\_
- Flying start?
- Golf course hazard
- "You are \_\_\_\_"
- Havana home
- One-named U2 frontman
- He was beaten by Barack
- Passionate
- Brief
- Many a fake ID user
- Got into hot water?
- Colorado State athlete
- Canadian National Park
- Perfect
- Misty-eyed
- Unaccompanied
- Art Deco designer
- Filmmaker Ethan or Joel
- "The Untouchables" role
- Tip container
- Streamlet

sure customers, staff or other vendors verbally or physically.

• I will not sell Groundcover News under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

• I understand that I am not a legal employee of Groundcover News but a contracted worker responsible for my own well-being and income.

• I understand that my badge is property of Groundcover News and will not deface it. I will present my badge when

purchasing the papers.

• I agree to stay off private property when selling Groundcover News.

• I understand to refrain from selling on public buses, federal property or stores unless there is permission from the owner.

• I agree to stay at least one block away from another vendor. I will also abide by the vendor corner policy.

If you see any Groundcover News vendors not abiding by the code of conduct, please report the activity to: [contact@groundcovernews.com](mailto:contact@groundcovernews.com), 734-263-2098.

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| 1/6           | \$129.95        | \$165.95 | 5 x 4                 |
| 1/4           | \$159.95        | \$215.95 | 5 x 6.25              |
| 1/2           | \$299.95        | \$399.95 | 10.25 x 6.5 or 5 x 13 |
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## Trump adviser Stephen Miller flies below the radar



by Martin Stolzenberg  
Groundcover  
Contributor

A recipe for success in the Trump administration: Be mean and keep a low profile. This fits Stephen Miller like a custom-made suit. His title is senior policy adviser to President Trump and he knows how to play the game.

Improbably, Miller grew up in a liberal, Jewish, upper-income household in Santa Monica, Calif. From his days in high school, Miller showed signs of being an “Americans first” ideologue. Miller had a penchant for outrageous, conservative provocations that hasn’t diminished as an adult.

He loved to listen to Rush Limbaugh and quote books by right-wingers such as Wayne LaPierre. In school, Stephen was always into confrontations, saying his objective was not to upset anyone but to challenge people to reevaluate their own assumptions. As a sign of his predilections, he loudly complained about the Spanish-language announcements that came over the high school PA system. He also arrogantly complained, while running for school office, about being reminded to pick up trash when they had plenty of janitors around who were paid to do that.

Miller then attended Duke University, where he wrote conservative columns

for the school newspaper. He gained notoriety for his articles in defense of the students who were wrongly accused of rape in the Duke lacrosse players’ case. Also, he became a friend of the controversial white nationalist leader Richard Spencer, whom he met at Duke.

After graduating college, Miller used his writing skills to latch on as a press secretary for Arizona Reps. Michele Bachmann and John Shadegg, both Republicans. In 2009, he boosted himself to become press secretary to then-Alabama Sen. Jeff Sessions, who later became Trump’s attorney general.

Then in January 2016, Miller joined the Trump campaign as senior policy adviser. Miller wrote the speech Trump gave at the 2016 Republican convention. Miller and Sessions promulgated a theory of “nation-state populism” as a response to globalization and to immigration issues that played a strong role in Trump’s 2016 campaign.

At the outset of the Trump presidency in 2017, Miller was charged with setting all domestic policy. But then his role was changed to solely concentrate on immigration policy — meaning to make life miserable for immigrants, especially illegal immigrants. As weird as this focus sounds to some, immigration is probably the most important area, the cornerstone, of this presidency.

After all, Trump was basically elected on his promise to “build the wall.” And no matter how he and his associates try,

the illegal immigration situation continues to bedevil him. The only reason immigration has recently receded in the news is because of the investigation of his conduct in the election campaign. Otherwise, Trump’s tariffs and the Mexican-border confrontation have taken center stage.

Miller has had a long collaboration with Steve Bannon, the notorious white nationalist alt-right advocate and former White House chief strategist. Miller and Bannon were the key figures in the formation of Executive Order 13769, which sought to stop U.S. travel and immigration by citizens of seven Muslim countries and to indefinitely suspend entry of Syrians to the United States. Miller is considered the person most responsible for Trump’s reduction in the number of refugees accepted in the United States. He was also influential in Trump’s decision to fire FBI Director James Comey.

When Bannon fell out of favor with the White House and either resigned or was removed from office, Miller distanced himself. This didn’t stop Minnesota Democratic Rep. Ilhan Omar from calling Miller a white nationalist. “The fact that he still has influence on policy and political appointments is an outrage,” she said.

Miller was accused of being behind Trump’s October 2017 demands to Congress for the construction of more walls along the Mexico-U.S. border and more money for border-enforcement agencies. Congress has refused these demands, which led to the president ordering armed forces personnel to build the wall. This has gone to the courts, and currently no additional wall is being built — despite the president’s claims.

Miller and Sessions formulated the Trump administration decision to separate migrant children from their parents when they crossed the U.S. border. Miller felt that would act as a deterrent to migrants entering the country. The delaying tactics have created a logjam and humanitarian crisis on the border.

In the 2018 midterm Congressional elections, Miller played a key role in formulating the Trump message, which focused on fear of immigration. Trump lost 40 seats in the House in this election, arguably because of the closing argument focusing on immigrants, appealing solely to “white-identified politics,” which a majority of Americans does not support.

Miller supposedly played a key role in the resignation of Secretary of Homeland Security Kirstjen Nielsen because she was “not tough enough on illegal immigration.” He also put the kibosh on an appointment by causing the president to pull the plug on Ron Vitiello as head of Immigration and Custom Enforcement, because he too was considered not strong enough. Two other lead officials in Homeland Security have left, with more departures instigated by Miller to come, because of a lack of decisiveness toward the president’s policies.

In nymag.com of April 9, writer Eric Levitz said, “It seems both fair to describe Miller as a white nationalist and nearly impossible to ascribe a nonracist motivation to his political behavior.” You are known by the company you keep, no matter how much you deny a label.

see STEPHEN MILLER, page 11



“I would be happy if not a single refugee foot ever touched American soil again.”

Stephen Miller,  
grandson of Nazi Germany refugees to the United States

Illustration by DonkeyHotey, Creative Commons license

## Stephen Miller

continued from page 10

It’s a miracle that he is able to survive the Trump administration while having such a prominent effect on policy. As other members of the Trump administration have been peeled off during the past two years, he has survived and prospered. This is because he keeps a low profile, rarely giving out interviews or appearing on TV. Despite being primarily a speech writer, he has learned that silence is a good tactic if you want to survive the Trump circus. He seems content to be a staffer instead of a star. Not only does Miller avoid taking credit, he also avoids even the appearance of taking credit. Miller wants to be involved, but not leave his fingerprints.

## Yassoo Festival

continued from page 6

the 300s BCE, and never fully recovered.

The Greeks, as a nation, have gone through several political upheavals and

When he does speak, he is eloquent and accusatory toward those who he considers his enemies — liberals and Democrats. His penchant toward agitation is evident in what Miller writes for the White House. One example of pure Miller slyness was the President saying in his Jan. 7, 2019 speech to the nation, “Some have suggested a barrier is immoral. Then why do wealthy politicians build walls, fences and gates around their homes? They don’t build walls because they hate the people on the outside, but because they love the people on the inside. The only thing immoral is for the politicians to do nothing and continue to allow more innocent people to be so horribly victimized.” His vivid,

turmoil. The most recent challenges have been economic crisis and political instability. In an election this summer, the Leftist party, which gained power from the conservative center-right party in 2014, lost their political mandate to the conservative ruling party.

## It takes a village

continued from page 8

of mind, we take a qualitative leap. We can discover our ability to share and create. We may put old ideas of compli-

ance to the side. Chain-of-command thinking may be replaced by consensus. Council fires and ceremonies of respect will become popular. Dignity and discipline will be among the highest virtues.

graphic scenes of violence, often purely imaginary, stud Trump’s speeches on immigration.

On Aug. 2, 2017, on one of his infrequent TV appearances, Miller and CNN’s Jim Acosta went at it regarding one aspect of the president’s immigration policy. When Acosta said the proposal was at odds with American traditions about immigration going back to the Statue of Liberty and Emma Lazarus’ poem on its base, Miller was quick with a retort. That poem was added later and is not actually a part of the original Statue of Liberty, he stated. Further, he said, throughout American history there have been varying policies

regarding immigration that ebbed and flowed. He neglected to add that these were traditional popular talking points among white supremacist segments of the alt-right. That gives you an idea where Miller is coming from.

Miller minimizes his paper trail and gives ample credit to others whose opinions he has sought. Some speculate that he actually revels in Trump’s basest policies. Miller is considered the most authentic Trumpist, and yet he has outlasted many of his colleagues in an administration plagued by scandal and high turnover from the outset. No wonder he likes to be anonymous.

\*\*\*  
According to the U.S. Census, Greek-Americans are among the most successful ethnic communities in America today. Memory of Greece is native to Greek-American Yassoo Festival guests.

As poet Wendell Berry would say, the memory will spread over the American landscape like a grove: “The memory will grow into legend, and legend into song, and song into sacrament.”

YASSOO!

Working together with good purpose becomes a way of life.

All our ancestors are in our bones inspiring us to be bold and brave with great love for the people and all our relations.

Consider Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: the right to a decent standard of living. The basic human needs described therein are all important, but I want to focus on food and shelter. Healthy, nourishing food and shelter from fear are the foundation for an ecovillage that would be built on land. On this earth. We have some way

to go. A journey of one thousand miles begins with one step.

I propose that Groundcover work in Ann Arbor with the International Day of Peace this coming September to have a table and session on ecovillage planning. Alan Haber and Odile Hugonot-Haber are key coordinators. Conscious Cafe, Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice, American Indian Health and Family Services, and Ahern Institute Library are among the groups that come to mind now. There are many who support this vision. May we come together bringing theory and practice into fruition.



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| 52 | S  | 53 | E | 54 | C | 55 | G | 56 | E |
| 57 | T  | 58 | R | 59 | O | 60 | J | 61 | A |
| 62 | A  | 63 | T | 64 | E | 65 | A | 66 | M |
| 67 | G  | 68 | E | 69 | N | 70 | R | 71 | E |



## Vegetable stew

by Elizabeth Bauman

### Ingredients

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| 6 or 7 Roma tomatoes         | 6 cloves chopped garlic                              |
| 4 red bell peppers           | 9 Tbsp olive oil                                     |
| 2 small eggplants            | 2 tsp dry oregano                                    |
| 2 small zucchini             | 1 cup chopped, fresh basil (plus ½ cup to add later) |
| 2 Russet potatoes            | Salt and pepper                                      |
| 4 small/medium yellow onions |  |

### Directions

Chop all the vegetables into same-size pieces. Heat oil in a very large skillet, add the onions and garlic. Sauté until translucent. Add vegetables, herbs, salt and pepper. Gently mix then cover,

cook over medium heat for 5 minutes. Remove the cover and simmer for about 25 minutes. Cool and then add remaining basil.

*Delicious as a light dinner. Serve with a salad and Italian bread.*



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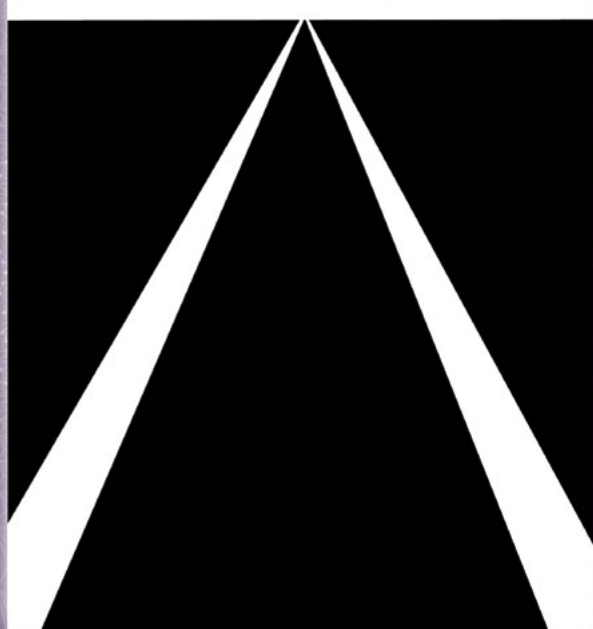
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